Opening of mail box to receive Patent applications

972. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on amendments to the Patents Act being passed by Parliament, a mail box has been opened to receive patents applications and for grant of exclusive marketing rights upto five years;

(b) whether opening such a mail box is not against the law; and

(c) whether proceedings are proposed to be drawn up against officers and the individuals who are indulging in this irregular practice?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No amendment has been passed by Parliament to the Patents Act, 1970. Government is, however, holding consultations in order to work out appropriate measures in this regard.

FDI proposals cleared by Government

973. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Foreign Direct Investment proposals cleared by the Government during the current financial year as on date;

(b) the total amount of investment for increasing exports projected in those FDI proposals; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) 779 proposals involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 18458.38 crores have been approved during the current financial year i.e. from 1.04.96 to 30.09.96. Export projections and export earnings thereof is being monitored by DGFT and no separate data on export content is centrally maintained by FIPB.

The details of these proposals viz. Name of the Indian Company, Name and country of the foreign collaborator, item of manufacture/ activity and equity participation, if any, are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

Delay in introducing a Bill on agricultural labour

974. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in introducing a Bill to safeguard the interests of agricultural labour in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) A bill on Agricultural workers in the country has been drafted and will be introduced in the Parliament as soon as procedural formalities are completed.

(b) The delay so far has been due to the complexity and enormity of the task as also on account of the views of the State Governments arising out of widely varying agroclimatic conditions, agricultural practices and employer-employee relationship prevailing in different States.

Decline in Exports

975. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that overall exports have been experiencing a decelerating tendency since June, 1996;

(b) if so, the monthly decline in real terms;

(c) to what extent this decline is due to short sighted policies;

(d) whether any efforts have been made to encourage buoyant export sectors to enhance their efforts in exports; and

(e) any single instance where a sectoral boost has been given to export oriented sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) As per available DGCI & S data India's exports are estimated at US$ 8212.87 million in Apr.-June 1996, at US$ 10837.73 million in Apr.-July, 1996 at US$ 13507.49 million for Apr.-August, 1996 and at US$ 16139.76 million for Apr.-September, 1996.